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FIELD INFORMATION REPORT

EVALUATION OF SOURCE: A. Completely reliable. B. Usually reliable. C. Fairly reliable. D. Not usually reliable. E. Not reliable. (Applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F. Reliability cannot be judged (Applied to untested or inadequately tested sources).

APPRAISAL OF CONTENT: 1. Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2. Probably true. 3. Possibly true. 4. Doubtful. 5. Probably false. 6. Cannot be judged. Documentary: Based on original document.

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. EOB-10,799

SUBJECT West German Conference on Combating
Communist Infiltration of the
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DATE OF REPORT 21 December 1955

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REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO. November 1955

PLACE ACQUIRED Germany, Berlin (5 December 1955)

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: Competent West German political observer (B). Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. The so-called "Witsch-Kreis" of Cologne consists of the following individuals:

- a. (Dr.) Josef Witsch, head of the publishing houses, Kiepenheuer and Witsch, and the Verlag fuer Politik und Wirtschaft (Publishing House for Politics and Economics) in Cologne;
- b. Bernd von Hottbeck, editor-in-chief of the SBZ-Archiv;
- c. Wolfgang Leonhard, Eastern affairs specialist;
- d. Dr. ~~Schoelmerich~~ (fnu), alias Josef Scholmer, Eastern affairs specialist;
- e. Unidentified representatives of the Federal Republic Ministry for All-German Affairs.

2. At the initiative of the "Witsch Kreis" and financed by the Bundeszentrale fuer Heimatdienst, a conference was called in Niederbreisig am Rhein from 22 through 24 November 1955. A total of 33 individuals attended the session. Discussions, decisions and the list of participants were to be treated as strictly confidential.

3. Among the participants were the following:

- a. (Dr.) von Dellingshausen (fnu), von Wittgenstein (fnu), Koepf (fnu) and Mevel (fnu), all representatives of the Federal Republic Ministry for All-German Affairs.
- b. (Dr.) Paul Franken, Director of the Bundeszentrale fuer Heimatdienst; (Dr.) von ~~ahn~~ (fnu) and (Dr.) Koerner (fnu-female) of the Bundeszentrale fuer Heimatdienst.
- c. (Dr.) Lueders (fnu), Federal Ministry of the Interior.
- d. Hans Kueffner, Federal Press Office.

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- a. Stefan Thomas, head of the SPD Ostbuero
 - f. Otto Stolz, representing the trade unions, editor on Welt der Arbeit.
 - g. Representatives of the Industrie Institut and the Unternehmerverbände, among them Dr. Fritz Arit and von Tobien (fna).
 - h. Dr. Linfert (fna), Dr. Hugo Wesemann and Ruge (fna), representing NWDR (Nord-West Deutscher Rundfunk).
 - i. Representatives of the press interested in Eastern affairs: Haprecht (fna) aka Stephan Brandt, Dr. Ritter (fna), Scholz (fna) of the Weser Kurier, and Ernest Salter, formerly of Die Neue Zeitung.
 - j. Eastern affairs specialists: Wolfgang Leonhard, Josef Scholmer, Carola Stern and Hubert Scheffler.
 - k. Salek (fna), Director of Haus der Jugend, Berlin.
 - l. The Director of the Berlin branch of the Europäisches Studienwerk, Vlothow/Weser (na).
 - m. Dr. Boessler (fna), representing the University of Bonn.
 - n. Dr. Janetz of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
 - o. Dr. Witsch and Bernd von Nottbeck.
3. The session was under the chairmanship of Dr. Witsch, who welcomed the participants and gave the introductory remarks on the purpose of the gathering. He declared that it was extremely urgent that representatives of the Federal Republic executive branch cooperate more closely with specialists in Eastern affairs. The reason for this greater urgency was the forthcoming installation of the Soviet Embassy in Bonn and the increased Communist propaganda activity which would result. It was anticipated that the creation of the Soviet Embassy would also stimulate an increase in KPD/SED activity in the Federal Republic. The purpose of this conference was to decide what could be done to increase the awareness of West Germans to this problem, to decide what educational and propagandistic steps could be taken by the Federal Government and interested private citizens, and to do everything possible to counter the expected increase in Soviet propaganda and KPD/SED activity by giving added emphasis to the prerogatives of the Federal Republic in the field of all-German affairs.
4. The main speeches were given by: Dr. Scholmer, who spoke on the new Soviet policy vis-a-vis Germany since the Geneva Conference; Wolfgang Leonhard, who covered the subject of SED Party schooling in East Germany; Salek (fna) who spoke on other schooling in East Germany; Ernest Salter, who discussed the political situation in East Germany since the 25th Plenary Session of the SED Central Committee; and Otto Stolz, who pointed up the danger of Communist infiltration in the Federal Republic.
5. The selection of topics and the resultant discussion gave the impression that the initiators of the conference were anxious to impress upon the representatives of the individual Federal ministries present what the actual aims of the Soviet Union and East Germany would be vis-a-vis the Federal Republic in the near future. The speakers attempted to make clear what tremendous energies and huge sums were being expended by the Communists to further infiltration and defection activities.

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6. Otto Stolz, in particular, stressed the mounting danger of Communist infiltration activity in the Federal Republic. He warned the participants not to judge the power or potential danger of the KPD by the poor showing the party made in Federal and state elections. In his own field, Stolz stressed that trade union officials noted with growing concern the fact that the percentage of KPD members and Communist fellow-travelers in the works councils (Betriebsräte) of the more important industrial enterprises in the Federal Republic is definitely on the rise.
7. The individual speakers concluded their speeches with a series of recommendations and suggestions for increasing the propaganda activity of the Federal Republic to make the population aware of the dangers of Communist infiltration. These proposals, which were discussed in detail during the second day of the conference, included the following:
 - a. The creation of a schooling center for the training of counter-propagandists, who would have extensive knowledge of the ideology, policies, and tactics of Communism and of the SED. These individuals should be able to counter the arguments of Communist agitators and should be utilized among those elements of the Federal Republic population most susceptible to SED propaganda. It is assumed that this proposal will be implemented.
 - b. Ernest Salter suggested that a weekly periodical be established, which, like the former Die Neue Zeitung, would devote itself more to Eastern affairs than the average West German publication. This proposal, however, was not as well received as the first one. The representatives of the Federal government were noncommittal and were not sure whether the suggestion was made because the need for such a publication really existed, or whether the proposal was based upon the desire of an individual (Salter) to become the editor-in-chief of the paper. The representative of the Federal Press Office was also skeptical and suggested instead that an attempt be made to interest the editors of papers already existing in Eastern problems, and in matters of all-German interest. In order to carry out this plan it was proposed that the editors-in-chief of the large dailies and the provincial press be called together to a special conference on Eastern affairs. A further suggestion was that the schooling center proposed as indicated above also include a section responsible for the publication of an information service on Eastern questions.
 - c. Salter also proposed that the suggestion be made to the Federal President that the national decoration for German sport (Silberlobbe des deutschen Sports) also be presented to worthy East German athletes and that literary prizes also be given to deserving East German writers. He stated that this would serve to emphasize the unity of Germany in these fields more than had been the case in the past.
 - d. Otto Stolz strongly recommended that at long last a detailed, complete report on Communist infiltration activity in the Federal Republic be published. He further recommended that the campaign of East German "People's owned" enterprises to set up contacts with West German workers by sending personal letters and propaganda material to them be nullified by instituting a counter-campaign. Under such a plan Stolz envisions the supplying of key West German enterprises with political materials exposing the evils of the workers' lot under Communism. He further suggested that politically conscious workers could be interested in replying to East German propaganda letters by citing the working and living conditions of the workers in the Federal Republic and asking the East German writer of the letter to compare these conditions with his own or with those of his non-SED colleagues.

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- e. A further topic discussed was how it would be possible to increase the political coverage of Federal and West Berlin radio stations with emphasis on:

1. The real aims of the Soviet Union and East Germany
2. Increasing emphasis on the all-German interests of the Federal Republic.

In connection with the discussion of radio, Witsch, Salter and several other participants suggested that East German broadcasts to the Federal Republic be jammed, thus forcing the East Germans to cease their jamming of West German and West Berlin broadcasts. The majority of the participants, however, argued that while such tactics were certainly justified politically, it was doubtful if anything could be accomplished thereby. Also not accepted by the majority of the participants was a suggestion that mobile jamming stations be used along the Federal Republic-East German border. These transmitters would jam East German broadcasts and interrupt East German programs with commentaries. All participants agreed that it was highly desirable that a German long-wave radio station be set up.

- f. Dr. Lueders reported briefly on the work of West Germany's film industry in the attempt to counter Communist propaganda. The resulting discussion as to how films could be utilized to a greater extent for this purpose produced no new ideas.
3. In his concluding remarks Witsch referred to the assembled group as the "General Staff of the Cold War". He proposed, and it was agreed by the participants, that the same group, or a similar one, meet again in the near future. The "Witsch-Kreis" would, meet in the interim and plan the strategy for future general meetings. Witsch also proposed, and all participants agreed, that the representatives of the Federal Ministries who attended the conference should pass on the recommendations of the participants to their respective offices.
4. Source Comment: The Europäische (or Gesamteuropäische) Studienwerk was founded in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The purpose of the Studienwerk is to help reveal to the West the true nature of Communist ideology and policies. For this purpose training courses were instituted in Vlothow/Weser for representatives of various institutions in West Germany.

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